



Patty Jepson revisits the APG Thrift Shop, the site of her bargain purchase—a Picasso print worth more than \$8,000.

Thrift Shop bargain yields valuable artwork

Story and photo by
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An old saying goes “one man’s junk is another man’s treasure,” and at least one piece of ‘junk’ turned into unexpected treasure for one lucky shopper at the APG Thrift Shop.

A piece of artwork that sold for \$1 turned out to be a valuable Picasso print titled “Petit Fleurs” that appraised at \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Patty Jepsen was shopping at the Thrift Store in September 2006 when she strolled into one of the back rooms and looked at some of the paintings and pictures. One particular piece of artwork caught her eye.

“I recognized the picture because I’m an artist and have taken art classes. But I didn’t put two and two together that it was a Picasso,” she said. “The print was sitting in a corner inside a broken glass frame that was dusty and dirty. I asked what the price of the print was and was told I could have it for \$1.”

Jepsen realized she may have a valuable print when she removed the broken frame and noticed a sticker on the back of the artwork stamped with the year “1958” and “New York.”

“I did some research and found out that after Picasso made original oil paintings, he would have signings at a New York Gallery where he would sell prints of the original oil paintings,” Jepsen said.

Last October, Jepsen traveled to California to visit her brother and happened to enter an art gallery in Beverly Hills.

“Inside the gallery, many Picasso prints similar to the kind I owned, were displayed on the walls,”

she said. “They were selling for \$6,000 and up. So I decided to have the artwork appraised when the Antique Road Show visited Elkton.”

The appraisers from the Road Show told Jepsen that the print was worth between \$8,000 to \$10,000. According to Jepsen, the Elkton appraisers said they had never seen anything that valuable.

“The appraisers advised me that I should go to New York City to see a reputable art appraiser and that would be official proof of the Picasso’s value,” she said.

Call it someone else’s junk or cash in the attic, shoppers never know what they will find in a thrift/consignment shop.

The Thrift Shop, located in building 2458, sells furniture, jewelry, dishes, shoes, clothing, books, children’s toys, DVDs, television sets, nick knacks and sometimes Picasso prints. Racks of jeans of all sizes, dresses, shirts, skirts, coats and sweaters in good condition also are available.

The Thrift Shop is currently holding a \$1 Bag Sale during regular business hours through August. Sale items are mainly men’s, women’s and children’s clothing.

All the money goes back into the military community. A total of \$1,000 in phone cards was donated in 2005 and 2006 for Soldiers in Iraq. Money is also donated to the VA Medical Center at Perry Point.

The Thrift Shop hours of operation are Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, call 410-272-8572 during business hours.